



Draft Implementation Plan for IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process

Please note that this is a discussion draft only. Potential IDN ccTLD ~~requestors~~requesters should not rely on any of the proposed details of the contained information as the program remains subject to further consultation and revision.

Rev1.0: In this revision, clarification has been made to the IDNC WG position on IDN tables. The topic has been listed for public discussion in Module 7, and the deadline for submitting comments has been extended per the announcement following this document.

Rev2.0: In this revision, clarifications and updates have been made in accordance with public comments received on the previous version. In conjunction with this revision two papers, proposing implementation details on some open issues, have been released. All material is being posted to seek further community collaboration, in particular during the ICANN meeting in Mexico City, Mexico, March 1-6, 2009.

Rev2.0 is provided in both a redlined and a clean format.

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Module 1 – General Introduction and Background Information | 3 |
| 1.1 Background Information | 3 |
| Module 2 –Participation Eligibility Requirements | 6 |
| 2.1 ISO 3166-1 Representation | 6 |
| 2.2 ccTLD Operator Manager as R requestor of an IDN ccTLD | 6 |
| Module 3 – TLD String Criteria and Requirements | 7 |
| 3.1 Language and Script Criteria | 7 |
| 3.2 Meaningfulness Requirement..... | 8 |
| 3.3 Number of Strings per Country or Territory | 8 |
| 3.4 Technical String Criteria | 9 |
| 3.5 Clarifications of Changes to the IDNC WG Technical Recommendations..... | 10 |
| Module 4 – DNS Stability Technical PanelCommittee Considerations | 13 |
| 4.1 Proposed DNS Stability Technical PanelCommittee Function | 13 |
| Module 5 – Fast Track Request and Evaluation Process..... | 15 |
| 5.1 General Overview | 15 |
| 5.2 Submission of an IDN TLD Fast Track Request..... | 16 |
| 5.3 ICANN Staff Support and Contact Functions | 17 |
| 5.4 Termination Process for Submitted Requests | 18 |
| 5.5 Processing of an IDN TLD Fast Track Request..... | 19 |
| Appendix 1 to Module 5 | 20 |
| Module 6 – Delegation Process | 24 |
| 6.1 IANA Function | 24 |
| 6.2 ICANN Review Process | 25 |
| 6.3 US Government Authorization USG—DOC Review | 25 |
| Module 7 – Discussion of Additional Topics | 26 |
| 7.1 Relationship between ICANN and IDN ccTLD ManagerOperator | 26 |
| 7.2 Financial Contributions | 27 |
| 7.3 Association of IDN ccTLD Operators-Manager with the ccNSO | 27 |
| 7.4 Discussion of Contention Issues with Existing TLDs and new gTLD Applications | 28 |
| 7.5 IDN Table Procedure | 28 |
| 7.6 Proposed Evaluation of Fast Track the Process..... | 29 |

Module 1

General Introduction and Background Information

~~The present document~~This is [version 2.0 of](#) the Draft Implementation Plan for the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process [as requested by the ICANN Board](#) at the ICANN meeting in Paris, ~~in~~ June 2008.

The plan is based on ~~the~~ recommendations provided by the [IDNC WG in their Final Report](#), as well as on public comments provided throughout the IDNC WG's online and public comment options.

The plan ~~also contains elements that have been discussed publicly, but were not part of the recommendations from the IDNC WG. Decisions will need to be made about these elements in order for the Fast Track Process to be implemented in a sustainable way.~~

~~The plan~~ is presented in modules that ~~later~~ will be further detailed and finalized for the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process. The modules are:

Module 2: Fast Track Eligibility Requirements

Module 3: TLD String Criteria and Requirements

Module 4: Technical Committee Considerations

Module 5: Fast Track Request and Evaluation Process

Module 6: TLD Delegation Process

Module 7: Discussion of Additional Topics

~~To papers has been provided with supporting material to this plan:~~

- ~~[Proposed Documentation of Responsibility between ICANN and prospective IDN ccTLD Managers](#)~~
- ~~[Proposed Development and use of IDN tables and character variants for second and top level strings](#)~~

1.1 Background Information

One of the most significant innovations ~~in for~~ the Internet since its inception will be the introduction of top level Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs). These will offer many new opportunities and benefits for Internet users around the world by allowing them to establish and use domains in their native languages and scripts.

~~The topic of~~ IDNs ~~has~~ [been](#) discussed in the ICANN community for ~~a number of many~~ years. Initially, development ~~was~~ focused on

enabling the introduction of IDNs as registrations under existing top-level domains (TLDs), but in the past year especially focus has shifted to be on broadening the characterscharacter repertoire available for use in top level strings.

Over the past years the introduction of IDN gTLDs ~~has been was~~ discussed in the context and as part of the new gTLD program.

~~Historically top level strings have been divided into two main groups, the ccTLDs and the gTLDs.~~

~~While there is no technical difference from a DNS standpoint, this distinction continues to be relevant as the TLD character repertoire is being increased.~~

The consultation and discussion on the introduction of IDN ccTLDs ~~wasere~~ initiated by the ICANN Board at its meeting in São Paulo (December 2006). The Country Code Name Supporting Organization (ccNSO) and the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) were ~~then requested, through a joint collaborative effort to collaborate,~~ in consultation ~~as needed~~ with the relevant technical community, to produce an issues paper relating to on the selection of IDN ccTLDs associated with the ISO 3166-1 two-letter codes described in the ISO 3166-1 standard. -

The ccNSO and GAC formed a joint IDN working group, which published and submitted to the ICANN Board a list of issues relating to the introduction of IDN ccTLDs in June 2007.

~~During consultations~~ Consultations and discussions of the joint GAC and ccNSO IDN working group, ~~made~~ it ~~became~~ clear that a number of several countries and territories have a pressing need for IDN ccTLDs. This realization initiated a discussion of the provisions needed for an interim approach to IDN ccTLDs to meet near-term demands and to gain experience with mechanisms for selectionselecting and authorization-ofauthorizing such TLDs that can inform a policy development process. The ICANN Board requested the ICANN community, including the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), ccNSO, GAC, and the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), to ~~work~~ collaboratively ~~to~~ explore both an interim and an overall approach to IDN ccTLDs and recommend a course of action to the Board (ICANN meeting, San Juan, June 2007).

Following a ccNSO Council recommendation and broad support of the ICANN community, including the GAC, GNSO and ALAC, the ICANN Board ~~requested the chairs of~~ asked the ALAC, ccNSO, GAC and GNSO chairs to set ~~up~~ the an IDNC Working Group and working group appoint its members to this group as soon as possible and, requested the IDNC Working Group when established to commence its and begin work, in accordance with its Charter, ~~as soon as possible.~~

The IDNC WG was tasked to recommend mechanisms to introduce a limited number of non-contentious IDN ccTLDs, associated with the ISO 3166-1 two-letter codes, to meet near-term demand, while the overall policy is being developed.

At the ICANN meeting in Paris (June 2008) the IDNC Working Group submitted the its Final Report to the Board, including statements of the GAC and ccNSO statements on the proposed methodology. At its meeting in Paris the Board resolved:

Resolved (2008.06.26.04), the Board thanks the members of the IDNC WG for completing their chartered tasks in a timely manner.

Resolved (2008.06.26.05), the Board directs staff to: (1) post the IDNC WG final report for public comments; (2) commence work on implementation issues in consultation with relevant stakeholders; and (3) submit a detailed implementation report including a list of any outstanding issues to the Board in advance of the ICANN Cairo meeting in November 2008.

Subsequently ICANN staff then posted the IDNC WG Final report for public comments, and commenced the began implementation work as directed. Following the public comment period staff, ICANN posted a consolidated overview of the comments received and a document containing staff considerations regarding of the comments received. As part of the During implementation process, ICANN also submitted letters to relevant public authorities and ccTLD managers to seek information on their interest in participating in the Fast Track process.

This is the second revision of the Draft Implementation Plan. The two previous versions were posted right before and immediately following the ICANN meeting in Cairo, Egypt, 1-7 November 2008.

In preparing this revised Plan, ICANN took into consideration the comments received on the previous two versions; in particular public comments and input received through meetings, such as the ICANN meeting in Cairo on November 3-7, 2008. An analysis of these comments was released in a separate document together with this paper.

As presented in this This Draft Implementation Plan revised plan, presents the a Fast Track process that allows for IDN ccTLDs to can be implemented. However, there areas outlined in the previous versions some open issues that require further input from the community and need to be resolved, to complete the Draft Implementation Plan (as discussed in Module 7). ICANN staff is looking forward collaboration. To attempt to additional resolve these issues, additional information have been included in this

revised plan and two papers serving as proposed solutions on these open issues have been released.

- Documentation of Responsibility between ICANN and prospective IDN ccTLD Managers
- Development and use of IDN tables and character variants for second and top level strings

All this material is being released to seek further community input and collaboration, in particular before and during the ICANN meeting in Mexico City on March 1-6, 2009. A public comment period for these papers will enable and document such community discussions on. Comments received will be used to revise the current status plan in preparation of the Draft Final Implementation Plan, at the ICANN meeting in Cairo, Egypt, 1-7 November 2008 and beyond.

A full overview of activities and links to the materials related to the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process ~~process~~ and its implementation ~~thereof~~ can be viewed here ~~at~~ <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/>.

Module 2

Participation Eligibility Requirements

Participation in the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process has been limited by the IDNC WG recommendations, as discussed in this module. The limitations ~~have been~~were decided through community consultations, as described in Module 1, ~~and the~~The primary reasons for making the limitations are that the process is experimental¹ in nature and should not pre-empt the outcome of the ongoing IDN ccNSO PDP (Guiding ~~Principle~~Principles B and F from the IDNC WG Final ~~report~~Report). Further limitations are presented in Module 3.

2.1 ISO 3166-1 Representation

To be eligible to enter the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process, the country or territory must be represented in the International Standard ISO 3166-1, (Codes for the representation of names and countries and their subdivisions – Part 1: Country Codes). The exception to this requirement is the additional eligibility of the .eu for the European Union, which is exceptionally reserved on the ~~has~~ .EU delegated as a ccTLD but is not on the mentioned ISO 3166-1 list and its scope extended in August 1999 to any application needing to represent the name European Union. See http://www.iso.org/iso/support/country_codes/iso_3166_code_lists/iso-3166-1_decoding_table.htm#EU

A country or territory represented on the ISO3166-1 list is eligible ~~for participating to~~ participate in the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process and ~~as such for requesting to request~~ an IDN ccTLD string that fulfills the additional requirements set forth in Module 3.

2.2 ~~ccTLD operator~~Manager as requestor~~Requester of an IDN ccTLD~~

Delegation requests are received by ICANN to appoint country-code top-level domains to a local manger (also known as a “Sponsoring Organization”). This manager may be the existing country-code top-level domain manager for ISO 3166-1 code, or a different entity. In either case, the organization must have the support from the country or territory corresponding to the relevant ISO 3166-1 entry, and must satisfactorily document this support in

¹ It is important to note that by “experimental,” the working group was commenting on the policy aspects of IDN introduction and not the technical aspects. IDNs have been tested in the root zone and technical implications of the introduction are generally well understood. All studies will be completed to ensure there is a full understanding that IDNs will have no deleterious effects on DNS interoperability, stability and security.

accordance with ICANN's typical delegation evaluation procedures.

~~If the operator for an IDN ccTLD request has been identified, either as an existing or proposed new ccTLD operator, the operator can act as the party requesting an IDN ccTLD. In such a case proof of support and approval from the country or territory corresponding to the relevant ISO 3166-1 entry must be provided.~~

The evidence of support, or non-objection, from the relevant government or public authority is defined as a signed letter of support, or non-objection, from the Minister with the portfolio responsible for domain name administration, ICT, foreign affairs or Office of the Prime Minister or President; or a senior representative of the agency or department responsible for domain name administration, ICT, Foreign Affairs or the Office of the Prime Minister.

The letter should clearly express the government or public authority's support, or non-objection, for the request.

Module 3

TLD String Criteria and Requirements

~~Conservative~~ ~~limitations~~ ~~regarding~~ ~~for~~ ~~potential~~ TLD strings have been ~~proposed~~ ~~set~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~for~~ ~~this~~ process due to its ~~limited~~ introductory nature and ~~in~~ ~~order~~ to safeguard against pre-empting ~~gen~~ ~~of~~ the outcome of the ongoing IDN ccNSO ~~Policy Development Process~~. Limitations in this module are focused on criteria and requirements set for the TLD string itself and are defined here ~~as~~ ~~a~~ guide ~~the~~ ~~to~~ participants.

3.1 Language and Script Criteria

The conditions ~~regarding~~ ~~for~~ the language and ~~the~~ ~~script~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~used~~ for the selected TLD string are as follows:

The language must be an official language in the corresponding country or territory, and ~~as~~ ~~such~~ ~~either~~ have ~~a~~ legal status in the country or territory, or serve as a language of administration.

The language requirement is verified as follows:

1. If the language is listed for the relevant country or territory as an ISO 639 language in Part Three of the *“Technical Reference Manual for the standardization of Geographical Names”*, *United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (the UNGEGN Manual) (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/default.htm>); or
2. If the language is listed as an administrative language for the relevant country or territory in ISO 3166-1 standard under column 9 or 10; or
3. If the relevant public authority in the country or territory confirms that the language is
 - a. used in official communications of the relevant public authority; and
 - b. serves as a language of administration.
4. Requests can only be ~~made~~ for strings in scripts other than Latin; that is, other than the characters (a, ..., z), either in their basic forms or with combining marks. Languages based on ~~the~~ Latin script are not eligible for the Fast Track process (in accordance with Guiding Principle D from the IDNC WG Final Report).

3.2 Meaningfulness Requirement

The selected string for the IDN ccTLD must be a meaningful representation of the official name of the corresponding country or territory. A string is deemed meaningful if it is in the official language of the country or territory and if it is:

- The name of the country or territory; or
- A part of the name of the country or territory denoting the country or territory in the selected language; or
- A short-form designation for the name of the country or territory that is recognizable and denotes the country or territory in the selected language.

The meaningfulness requirement is verified as follows:

1. If the requested string is listed in the UNGEGN manual, then the string fulfills the meaningfulness requirement.
2. If the requested string is not listed in the UNGEGN manual, then the meaningfulness must be substantiated ~~(for, as in the following example)~~ as follows:

Submission and presentation of documentation from an internationally recognized linguistic expert or organization stating that the requested string meets the criteria.

ICANN is seeking external expertise in this area to further inform implementation of the process. Additional information will be made available as soon as it is obtained.

3.3 Number of Strings per Country or Territory

The number of strings ~~which that~~ a country or territory can apply for is purposely not limited to a ~~certain specific~~ number (in accordance with Guiding Principle G in the IDNC WG Final Report). However, ~~at the following~~ limitation ~~is set as follows~~ applies:

- *One string per official language ~~or script~~ per country or territory.*

Given certain circumstances it is proposed to expand the concept of Guiding Principle G in order to meet the Fast Track Process intent of allocating strings for those countries and territories where an expressed need is demonstrated.

In limited cases it is suggested that identified variant strings will be allocated as top level string, such as for example in the case of traditional and simplified Chinese, see <http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-10feb09-en.htm>

The paper (“Development and use of IDN tables and character variants for second and top level strings”) contains more details

about how this expansion should be implemented, and has been posted together with this revised Draft Implementation Plan. Comments on this paper are sought in preparation for a Finalized Implementation Plan.

3.4 Technical String Criteria

~~The technical criteria for the IDN ccTLD strings are equivalent to those for the IDN gTLD strings.~~ Meeting all the requirements in this section does not guarantee acceptance of a prospective top-level string ~~as, since~~ the below is following subsections do not contain an exhaustive list of all requirements or restrictions. Technical requirements for IDN ccTLD strings and gTLD strings are equivalent and are established by technical standards developed by the IETF.

This section described technical criteria for strings only, requirements related to delegation (such as name server requirements) are considered in Module 6.

The IDNA protocol to be used for internationalized labels is ~~currently~~ under revision through the Internet standardization process (in the IETF). ~~As such, additional~~ Following that revision completion in the IETF, additional requirements may be specified or ~~the~~ requirements specified here may ~~change be changed or be removed, in accordance with the finalized IDNA technical standard -as the protocol revision is being completed.~~ The preference is to have the IDNA protocol revision completed before IDN TLDs are delegated; ~~;~~ however, if this is not feasible then the technical requirements may be stricter for ~~the~~ initial delegations. The current status of the protocol revision is documented at <http://tools.ietf.org/wg/idnabis/> and additional updates can be found at <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/rfcs.htm>

3.4.1 General Technical Requirements

The following are general technical requirements that must be ~~valid~~ complied with for the IDN ccTLDs in A-label format.

The A-label (i.e., ~~;~~ the label as transmitted on the wire) must be valid as specified in technical standards for *Domain Names: Implementation and Specification* (RFC 1035); and *Clarifications to the DNS Specification* (RFC 2181). This includes ~~the following~~:

- The label must have no more than 63 characters. This includes the prefix (the four initial characters "xn--").
- Upper and lower case characters are ~~treated~~ as considered to be syntactically and semantically identical.

The A-label must be a valid host name, as specified in technical standard *DOD Internet Host Table Specification* (RFC 952); and *Requirements for Internet Hosts — Application and Support* (RFC 1123). This includes ~~the following~~:

- The label must consist entirely of letters, digits and hyphens.
- The label must not start or end with a hyphen.

3.4.2 IDN Specific Technical Requirements

~~The following~~ This subsection details the specific technical string requirements for ~~with a specific emphasis on~~ IDN strings requirements. Requestors for these internationalized top-level strings are expected assumed to be familiar with the IETF IDNA standards, Unicode standards, and ~~the terminology associated with Internationalized Domain Names~~ IDN terminology.

The string must be a valid internationalized domain name, as specified in technical standards <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/rfcs.htm>. ~~This includes the following or any revisions of this technical standard currently under consideration by the IETF. As a result, IDN-related technical requirements are subject to change. These are presented guidelines only and are not a complete statement of the requirements for IDNA specifications. The label:~~

- Must ~~only~~ contain only Unicode code points that are defined as "Protocol Valid" ~~in The Unicode Codepoints and IDNA (Internet Draft "draft faltstrom idnabis tables")~~; and be accompanied by unambiguous contextual rules where necessary.
- Must be fully compliant with Normalization Form C, as described in *Unicode Standard Annex #15: Unicode Normalization Forms*. ~~See also examples~~ Examples appear in <http://unicode.org/faq/normalization.html>
- The string must consist entirely of characters with the same directional property. This requirement may change as the IDNA protocol is being revised to allow for characters having no directional property (as defined at <http://unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/extracted/DerivedBidiClass.txt>) to be available along with either a right-to-left or a left-to-right directionality.
- The string must not begin ~~nor~~ or end with a digit (in any script).

The string must meet the relevant criteria of the *ICANN Guidelines for the Implementation of Internationalized Domain Names*. This includes ~~the following~~:

- All code points in a single string must be taken from the same script as determined by the *Unicode Standard Annex #24: Unicode Script Property*.
- Exceptions to this [guideline](#) are permissible for languages with established orthographies and conventions that require the commingled use of multiple scripts. However, even with this exception, visually confusable characters from different scripts will not be allowed to ~~co-exist~~[coexist](#) in a single set of permissible code points unless a corresponding policy and character table ~~is~~[are](#) clearly defined.

Further, ~~in reference to~~ the IDN Guidelines ~~there is~~[contain](#) a requirement for IDN registries to develop IDN ~~tables~~[Tables](#). The IDNC WG recommended the following ~~in relation to~~[for](#) IDN Tables (for further discussion on this topic, see Module 7, [Section 7.5](#)):

The language/script table to be used by the IDN ccTLD may already exist i.e. has been prepared by another Territory using the same language/script and was already submitted. In this case the selected delegate should indicate its intention to use that language/script table.

Territories using the same script are encouraged to cooperate in developing a language/script table, in accordance with IDN guidelines.

[Building on this recommendation from the IDNC WG Final report ICANN prepared and released a paper \(“Development and use of IDN tables and character variants for second and top-level strings”\). See Module 7 for more details.](#)

3.5 Clarifications of Changes to the IDNC WG Technical Recommendations

In a few instances the ~~above~~ technical requirements [above](#) deviate slightly from ~~what was~~[those](#) recommended in the IDNC WG Final report. Some deviations in language ~~are made~~[exist](#) because the protocol revision is still ongoing. Therefore, additional adjustments can be expected to the technical requirements before ~~these~~[they](#) are considered final. ICANN staff will remain in close contact with the technical community as the implementation of the Fast Track process ~~is progressing,~~[progresses](#) to ensure that the technical requirements are consistent with the protocol revision efforts.

Overview of Technical String Requirement Changes

| Original IDNC WG requirement | Revised Language |
|--|--|
| 1. There is no mixing of scripts | All code points in a single string must be taken from the same script as determined by the Unicode Standard Annex #24: Unicode Script Property. Exceptions to this are permissible for languages with established orthographies and conventions that require the commingled use of multiple scripts. However, even with this exception, visually confusable characters from different scripts will not be allowed to co-exist in a single set of permissible code points unless a corresponding policy and IDN table is clearly defined. |
| Rationale: Given the fact that certain languages (for example Japanese) are expressed by using a mixing of scripts it was deemed inappropriate to completely prohibit mixing of scripts in a top level string, as long as adequate measures are in place to prevent unnecessary mixing of scripts. This is in line with the IDN Guidelines. | |
| Original IDNC WG requirement | Revised Language |
| 2. No names that are shorter than two characters in non-ASCII are used | Not available in technical requirement language |
| Rationale: The determination as to whether a string consists of a minimum of two characters is not considered a requirement that the Technical Committee should be verifying. This will instead be verified immediately when ICANN receives the request for an IDN ccTLD string so that any factual errors against this requirement are found as quickly as possible, and corrected if the requestor wishes to do so. Staff may seek linguistic expertise if necessary; however this is anticipated to be the exception not the norm. | |
| Original IDNC WG requirement | Revised Language |
| 3. It is demonstrated that the selected string in combination with the language/script table when being used, in for example e-mail addresses, URIs etc, does not create any rendering or other operational issues. | Not available in technical requirement language |
| Rationale: This requirement has been moved to the Request Template, where the requestor is required to (i) accept that IDNs can cause rendering problems in certain applications and (ii) demonstrate that all due caution has been taken into account in development of the TLD string and associated registration policies to avoid such rendering problems. Requestors can become further familiar with these kinds of problems by understanding the IDNA protocol and in particular via the proposed new version of the IDNA protocol – or by active participation in the IDN wiki where some rendering problems can be demonstrated and experienced. One example of a rendering problem can be for the potential TLD registry manageroperator to demonstrate that they have tested that the character “x” (first character in their proposed TLD) has rendering problems together with the character “y” (that might be the end of the 2nd level domain). Because of this, the registration policy for this TLD prohibits all 2nd level domains that end with “y”. | |
| Original IDNC WG requirement | Revised Language |
| 4. Verification that the proposed code cannot be interpreted as any of the elements in the alpha-2 codes that is used by ISO 3166/MA (section 5.2 of ISO 3166-1:2006) | TBD |
| Rationale: Proposal is to let the technical requirement stand as it is recommended, but apply support to the Technical Committee to allow them to align this confusability check with the process in the gTLD process and further to allow them to seek linguistic expertise in cases where there is doubt about confusability with ISO3166 strings. (See also discussions in Module 7). | |

Module 4

DNS Stability Technical Committee Panel Considerations

The role and responsibility of the Technical Committee (referred to as the DNS Stability Technical Panel) is to provide external and independent advice to the ICANN Board ~~that about whether,~~ based on the documentation provided by the IDN ccTLD ~~requestor, the requestor, a~~ selected string meets the technical criteria. If the DNS Stability Technical Committee Panel finds that the selected string does not meet one or more of the criteria, the request for the IDN ccTLD with that particular selected string is not eligible under the Fast Track. However, the Technical Committee committee can seek further clarification from the ~~requestor requestor,~~ if ~~such is deemed~~ necessary, before ~~making a decision providing its findings~~ on the requested string.

In line with the IDNC WG ~~final report Final Report recommendation,~~ the external and independent DNS Stability Technical Panel ~~“Technical Committee”~~ should be appointed to conduct ~~the~~ technical due diligence and report to the ICANN Board.

~~Previously,~~ ICANN ~~has previously~~ used the Registry Services Evaluation Process to evaluate proposed registry services such as ~~the~~ introduction of DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC) in existing gTLD registries, rapid zone updates, DNS wildcard entries, partial bulk transfer, release of previously reserved second-level domain names, add-grace period limits, and abusive use policies. High-level technical expertise performs these evaluations.

ICANN believes it is similarly feasible to use the existing Registry Services Technical Evaluation Panel (RSTEP) experts and attract ~~appropriate and adequate additional~~ technical and linguistic expertise to fulfill the duties of the DNS Stability Technical Committee Panel.

4.1 Proposed DNS Stability Technical Committee Panel Function

A core piece of the IDNC WG ~~final report Final Report~~ includes technical recommendations ~~related to for~~ the stability and security of the TLD string itself. These technical requirements ~~have been are~~ outlined in Module 2. While all requests in the Fast Track process will undergo a fast track admissibility check by staff, all requested strings ~~will go through must successfully pass~~ a DNS Stability Technical Committee Panel review ~~that has to be passed successfully in order~~ for the requested IDN ccTLD string to continue through the Fast Track ~~Process process~~.

It is proposed that the ~~DNS Stability Technical Panel Technical Committee as a whole~~ conducts initial ~~triage examination~~ on the ~~list of strings submitted by prospective IDN ccTLD managers provided by ICANN staff.~~

If ~~the panel determines that~~ strings ~~are identified by the Committee as needing~~ further review, a ~~3-smaller three-~~ member panel ~~is will be~~ formed to conduct a DNS Stability Review.

The ~~Panel panel~~ will review the string and ~~make a determination and determine~~ whether the string will ~~harm adversely affect~~ the ~~Internet security or stability of the DNS.~~

The ~~Panel panel~~ review will be conducted in 30 days or less ~~(, if possible).~~

If ~~a determination is made~~ ~~the panel determines~~ that the ~~string~~ applied for ~~is string does~~ not ~~in compliance comply~~ with relevant standards or creates a condition that may adversely affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of responses to Internet servers or end systems, then this decision ~~is will be~~ communicated to ICANN staff, and ~~then~~ to the ~~requestor requester~~. The request for an IDN ccTLD cannot proceed ~~with if there is~~ a decision against the string.

However, the ~~technical~~ panel may seek clarification from the ~~requestor requester~~ if ~~deemed~~ necessary.

An extended review is likely not to be necessary for a string that fully complies with the string requirements referenced in Module 3, section 3.4. However, the string review process provides an additional safeguard if unanticipated security or stability issues arise concerning a requested IDN ccTLD string.

ICANN acknowledges that comments received are requesting more details on the topic of formation of the DNS stability Technical Panel, such as the selection criteria for appointing members to this panel. The panel will be formed through and open solicitation or tender and more details will be provided as soon as possible.

Module 5

Fast Track Request and Evaluation Process

This module gives an overview of the process for requesting an IDN ccTLD under the Fast Track process, and includes instructions ~~on how to complete~~for completing and ~~submit necessary material such as the~~submitting required supporting documentation and other necessary materials.

This module also discusses how to request help concerning the process, and the circumstances under which a submitted request can be withdrawn or terminated. A glossary of relevant terms is available online at: <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/idn-glossary.htm>

5.1 General Overview

~~A general~~An overview of the entire IDN ccTLD Fast Track process is presented in Figure 5.1. The three color-coded stages represent the three-stage methodology as recommended by the IDNC WG: the Preparation Stage; the Request Submission and String Evaluation Stage, and the Delegation Process Stage.

5.1.1 The Preparation Stage

In the Preparation Stage, the ~~requestor~~requester undertakes preparatory work to enter the Fast Track process. ~~The primary~~Primary preparation activities include identification of:

- ~~the~~The language(s) and script(s) for the IDN ccTLD string(s),
- ~~selection~~Selection of the string(s) and hence the name of country or territory for the IDN ccTLD(s), and
- ~~the~~The development of the associated IDN Table(s) and any potential variants as necessary required for linguistic reasons.

In addition, ~~it is in the Preparation Stage that the requestor~~at this time the requester develops the required documentation of endorsements. Documentation of ~~endorsement need~~endorsements must include:

1. Support from the relevant government or public authority in the country or territory that the selected string is a meaningful representation of the country or territory name.
2. Support from the relevant government or public authority in the country or territory for the selected registry operator~~manager~~.

As previously mentioned the evidence of support, or non-objection, from the relevant government or public authority is defined as a signed letter of support, or non-objection, from the Minister with the portfolio responsible for domain name administration, ICT, foreign affairs or Office of the Prime Minister or President; or a senior representative of the agency or department responsible for domain name administration, ICT, Foreign Affairs or the Office of the Prime Minister.

The letter should clearly express the government or public authority's support, or non-objection, for the request.

~~It is recommended that the~~The involvement of the participants in the country or territory should be documented as described above in a manner similar ~~manner as is to that~~ required for a standard ccTLD delegation request, by the ~~selected delegator requester; see. See~~ <http://www.iana.org/domains/root/delegation-guide/> for more details.

To support the ~~requestors~~requesters in ~~their preparation efforts~~preparing requests, ICANN will be launching a support function ~~for those that need for~~ guidance ~~or and~~ support in the development of IDN related aspects ~~elements related to their of the requesters' IDN Registration Policy~~.registration policy.

5.1.2 The Request **Submission** and **String** Evaluation Stage

In the Request Submission and String Evaluation Stage, the ~~requestor~~requester submits ~~their a~~ request for the selected string to be accepted by ICANN as eligible to be a representation of the country or territory an IDN ccTLD to ICANN. The request ~~then~~ undergoes the defined evaluation steps, including:

- –Request Admissibility Process Review
- –String Confirmation Process
- –Publishing of String and Delegation Readiness Verification Process

The ~~various~~ steps in ~~this e Request and Evaluation~~ Stage are described in further detail below in this Module in the following subsections.

5.1.3 The Delegation Process Stage

~~When the After a~~ request has successfully passed the Request and Evaluation stage ~~successfully~~, it enters the Delegation Process Stage, ~~where during which~~ the standard IANA Pre-Delegation process is applied before the request for delegation can be submitted for approval by the ICANN Board.

The Delegation Process Stage is described in further detail in Module 6.

Once the ~~request is approved by the~~ ICANN Board approves a request, the string is delegated in the DNS root, after which the IDN ccTLD ~~operator/manager~~ can launch operations and start accepting registrations under the delegated IDN ccTLD.

5.2 Submission of an IDN TLD Fast Track Request

Requests for IDN ccTLDs can be submitted to ICANN starting [Fast-~~Track~~ opening date]. A template for the required information for such a request can be downloaded hereat [link to template, to be developed].

Requests must be submitted electronically to [to be determined], with any supporting documentation additionally provided in original form (or certified copies), and in addition requests must be submitted to ICANN in signed hard copy format at the following address:

ICANN
4676 Admiralty Way Ste 330
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
USA

Attn: Request for an IDN ccTLD Fast Track

The applicant will be provided with a reference number to be associated with their request, to be used in for any follow-up queries associated with the string evaluation.

IDN ccTLD Fast Track requests can be submitted at any time from the start date and until the finalization of the ccNSO PDP on IDNs (in accordance with Guiding Principle A from the IDNC WG Final Report). The end date for submission of a Fast Track request will be announced as soon as it is known.

Requests for IDN ccTLDs are ~~anticipated~~expected to be processed manually due to the currently expected volume of requests. The expected volume is based loosely on the replies ICANN received to the request for information (RFI). Last year, in accordance with the IDNC WG recommendation, ICANN sent letters to countries and territories informing them about the Fast Track process and asked them to indicate their level of interest. -that in accordance with the IDNC WG recommendation has been sent out to all relevant authorities and ccTLD operators. The RFI aimed at gaining~~was to gain~~ an understanding of the interest of individual countries and territories ~~to participate~~participating in the Fast Track process. At the time ICANN received 74 responses, with a small number of writing respondents requesting confidentiality. Of the 74 responses (omitting a small number that asked their replied be kept confidential), 31 expressed interest in participating in the Fast Track process, representing a total of ~~29 parties replied that~~

they are interested in participation in the Fast Track process, whereas 23 parties replied that they are 15 different languages. The remaining respondents were not interested in participating in the Fast Track process. Some respondents may at this time or would not be overlaps between eligible to obtain an IDN ccTLD operators and governments under the terms of the process.

A more detailed analysis of the responses to the RFI will be provided online at <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/> <http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-10feb09-en.htm>

5.3 ICANN Staff Support and Contact Functions

In order to support countries and territories in the participation participating in the Fast Track, several contact points and support processes will be made available as. These support functions, described as follows, in greater detail in the following subsections, will be available to prospective IDN ccTLD managers in their preparation phase and again after the requested IDN ccTLD is delegated.

Potential conflicts - during the entire evaluation process, requesters must not approach, or have any other person or entity approach on their behalf, any ICANN staff member, any ICANN Board member, or any person associated with the evaluation process, including any evaluators, experts, examiners, or reviewers retained by ICANN.

ICANN will provide contact details to which applicants can submit enquiries on the process.

The exception to this case would be when or if a requester is approached by ICANN or its agents for clarification of information in the submitted request. In addition, some communication will occur during the standard ICANN function for delegation of the IDN ccTLDs and for providing root management services.

5.3.1 General Contact Details

ICANN Regional Liaisons and Fast Track program office processing staff are will be available to assist requesters with all phases prospective IDN ccTLD managers in the Preparation Stage of the Fast Track process.

Region-based contact details will be made available for Fast Track participants, to ensure that all regions are covered adequately and to ensure that inquiries can be responded to in a timely manner promptly within all time zones.

Answers to the most common questions regarding about the Fast Track process will be made available in a FAQ on the Fast Track web site website at <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/>

5.3.2 Specific IDN Support Details

To support the ~~requestors~~requesters in ~~their preparation efforts~~preparing requests, ICANN will ~~launch~~be providing a support function ~~for those that need~~containing guidance ~~and support information~~ in the development of elements related to ~~their requestors'~~ IDN ~~Registration Policy~~registration policy. This support function will be available in the Preparation Stage and again to an IDN ccTLD manager following delegation of the requested IDN ccTLD.

~~Included~~The following elements will be included in the IDN support process ~~are the following elements~~:

1. Review and implementation of IDN Guidelines, including support for understanding the details of the following requirements:
 - 1.1. Implementation of IDNA protocol requirements
 - 1.2. Defining script~~/or~~ language and sets thereof
 - 1.3. Development of IDN ~~table~~Table(s), including identifications of variants
 - 1.4. Posting of IDN ~~table~~Table(s) in ~~the~~IANA repository
 - 1.5. Making ~~all~~ information available online
 - 1.6. Identification of stakeholders that need to be consulted
2. Support and description of various available options for decision-making on implementation issues, such as:
 - 2.1. How to determine which characters to support (protocol validity, user survey, variants)
 - 2.2. Development of general registration policy (such as first-come-first-serve, grandfathering ~~and/or~~ other ~~pre-registration~~preregistration rights or- intellectual property rights)
 - 2.3. Development of variant registration policy (such as bulk vs. block registrations)
 - 2.4. Definition of necessary tools and support functions related to registrar communication, support needs, and ~~Draft Implementation Plan~~topics in general.
 - 2.5. Support to development of more technical necessary tool, such as ~~Whois~~WHOIS capabilities, IDNA conversions, and more.

~~For the development of~~In developing IDN Tables and the associated registrations policies ~~it is further recommended that the requestor, requesters are encouraged to~~ work with other

language communities that are using the same scripts as the basis for the languages they ~~are planning~~ to facilitate.

~~It is important to keep in mind that ICANN provides~~ ICANN will provide support and general assistance ~~for the above in these~~ matters. ICANN will not ~~make~~ provide legal or business ~~decisions~~ advice for countries or territories, ~~nor for~~ for a potential or existing registry ~~operator~~ managers.

5.4 Termination Criteria for Submitted Requests

~~In several~~ Several of the steps ~~throughout~~ in the Fast Track process ~~it is possible~~ allow for ~~the requestor~~ a requester to withdraw ~~their~~ a request. It is also possible that ~~ICANN will terminate~~ a request will be terminated by ICANN due to a determination that ~~if~~ the request contains certain errors.

Errors resulting in termination include the following:

1. The requested string is already a string delegated in the DNS.
2. The ~~requestor~~ requester does not correspond to a listing in the ISO3166-1 list.
3. The requested string consists of characters from the Latin script.
4. The language represented ~~is confirmed~~ does not ~~to~~ fulfill the language criteria ~~in relation to~~ for the corresponding country or territory.

If such errors are discovered ~~then~~ the requester ~~is~~ requester will be informed ~~about of~~ this result ~~and before~~ the Termination ~~process~~ Process is initiated. Details of the Termination Process are to be developed.

Other issues ~~found with~~ arising from a submitted request may delay the determination of whether the requested string should be delegated ~~or not~~. Such delaying factors could include: ~~(#1)~~ the requested string is already applied for in the Fast Track process, ~~(#2)~~ the requested string is already applied for in the gTLD process, ~~(#3)~~ the request does not contain support from the corresponding country or territory, and ~~(#4)~~ the requested string is not included in the ~~UNECE~~ UNECE manual and it is not otherwise substantiated that the string is a meaningful representation of the corresponding country or territory. In all such cases the ~~requestor~~ requester will be consulted for clarifications before any determination on the request is made.

While contention between strings is not expected and is unlikely to occur, the proposed procedure and rules for resolving such cases are described in Module 7, section 7.4.

5.5 Processing of an IDN TLD Fast Track Request

Requests for IDN ccTLD(s) submitted to ICANN will be subjected to a ~~sequential~~ series of manual evaluation reviews by ICANN staff and by outside appointed experts where required. Figure 5.1 outlines the overall process. The detailed processes are outlined in the following subsections and associated ~~Figures~~ figures.

5.5.1 Request Admissibility Process

The first activity ~~that takes place~~ after ICANN receives a request for an IDN ccTLD is ~~the checking a check~~ performed on the admissibility of the request.

~~in the Request Admissibility Process.~~

~~In this step~~ Here, ICANN staff verifies that all elements required ~~per~~ in the Fast Track Request Template ~~have been~~ are included in the request, ensuring that there are no obvious administrative errors in the request.

This check ~~is established to identify~~ identifies requests that are incomplete, as quickly as possible. ~~If errors are found~~ ICANN staff will ~~provide such information to~~ inform the ~~requester that~~ requester of this error, and the requester will be able to provide additional information at this time or withdraw the request and start over ~~when ready~~ at a later time. If no errors are encountered, ICANN staff will ~~provide the requester with a notification~~ notify the requester that the Request Admissibility Process is ~~considered~~ complete and passed.

5.5.2 String Confirmation Process

The next step is the String Confirmation Process. This process is outlined in Figure 5.3 (see Appendix 1, Module 5) and is described ~~as follows~~ in the following paragraphs.

The String Confirmation ~~process is initiated~~ Process begins with a validation that the process for self-certification of linguistic requirements is ~~completed~~ complete. The ~~requester~~ requester will be consulted if issues are found and clarification will be sought. ICANN ~~Staff is working on providing~~ is developing a support function for requesters for linguistic support function for requesters. Details of this support function are yet not available.

Once ~~the~~ linguistic verification has been completed, the string and associated material will be ~~provided~~ forwarded to the DNS Stability Technical Panel ~~Committee~~ (see Module 4 for details) ~~about the Technical Committee~~ and the technical string check is initiated ~~will begin~~. This is a detailed technical check ~~wherein~~ which all the technical string requirements ~~as described~~ referenced in Module 3 are applied and adherence verified. If technical issues on the selected string are discovered in this review the ~~Technical Committee~~ panel can request ~~clarifications~~ clarification from ~~the requester, alternatively~~ requester.

~~If clarifications are either not sufficient or cannot be provided,~~ the Termination Process will be initiated. See Section 5.4 ~~above~~.

~~If no technical issues are revealed by the DNS Stability Technical Panel/Committee, review reveals no technical issues~~ the ~~requestor/requester~~ is notified that the String Confirmation Process ~~has been completed~~ is successfully completed and that the requested string ~~now~~ will be posted publicly.

5.5.3 Publishing of Requested String(s)

Following a successful outcome of the String Confirmation Process, the requested IDN ccTLD string will be posted publicly.

~~An area on the~~The ICANN website will ~~be contain an area~~ dedicated to presenting strings that ~~have reached~~reach this step in the ~~fast track~~Fast Track process. RSS features of changes to this area will be made available.

5.5.4 Delegation Readiness Verification Process

~~When a request reaches~~At this point all ~~requirements in the~~ Stage 2 process ~~per requirements under~~ the IDNC WG recommendations ~~have been completed~~are considered successfully. ~~A completed~~ICANN staff will prepare a delegation readiness verification report ~~is produced by ICANN staff and provided to~~for IANA staff. The ~~requestor/requester~~ will be notified that the formal IANA delegation process can begin and what further actions are necessary ~~to take~~. The IANA ~~Delegation~~delegation process is described further in ~~the next~~ Module 6.

Appendix 1 to Module 5

Appendix 1: Figure 5.1: General Overview of the Fast Track Process; Stage 1: Preparation; Stage 2: Request [Submission](#) and [String](#) Evaluation; Stage 3: Delegation

Figure 5.2: String Confirmation Process

IDN Fast Track Implementation Process

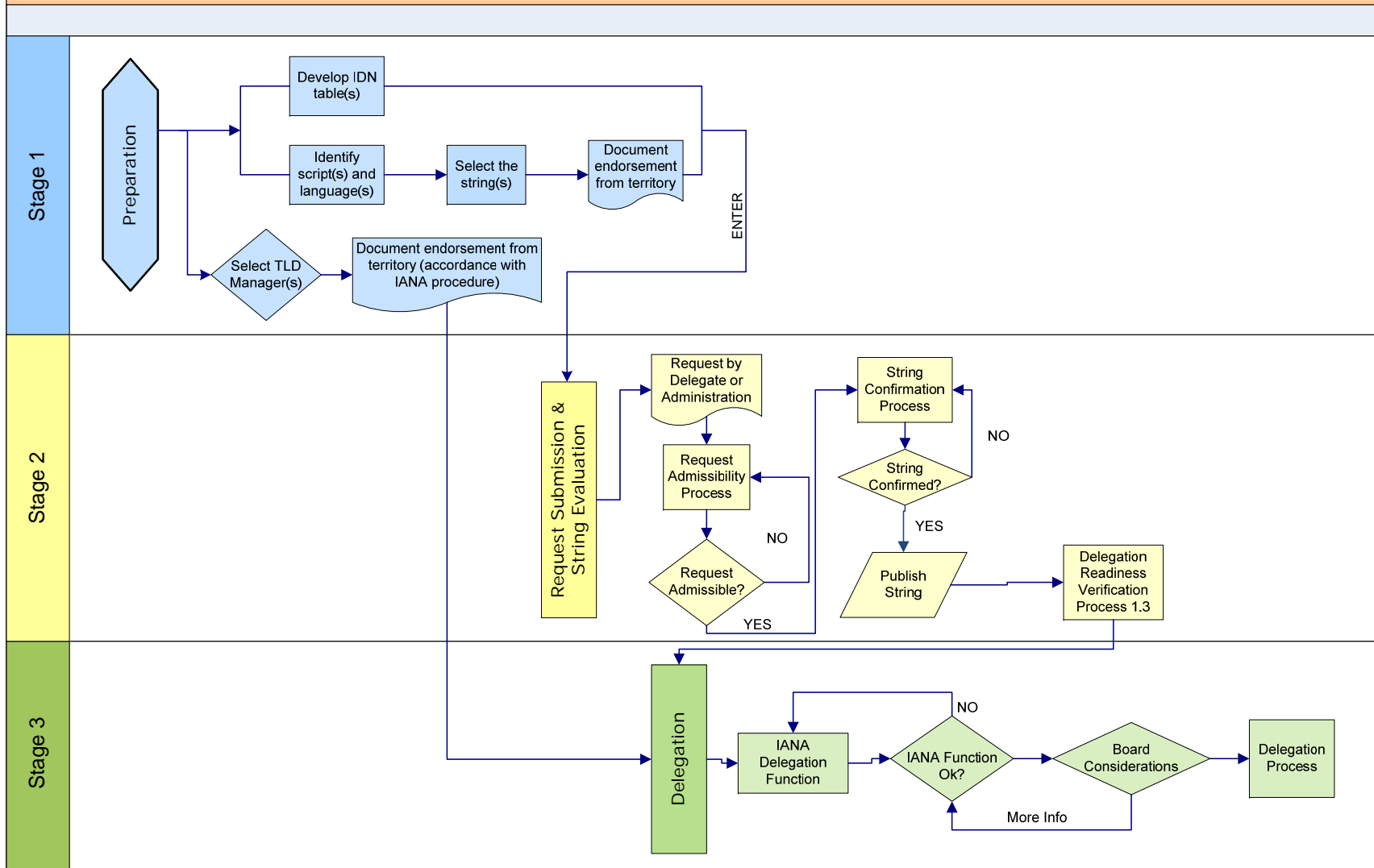


Figure 5.1: General overview of the Fast Track Process; Stage1: Preparation; Stage 2: Request Submission and String Evaluation; Stage 3: Delegation Delegation Process

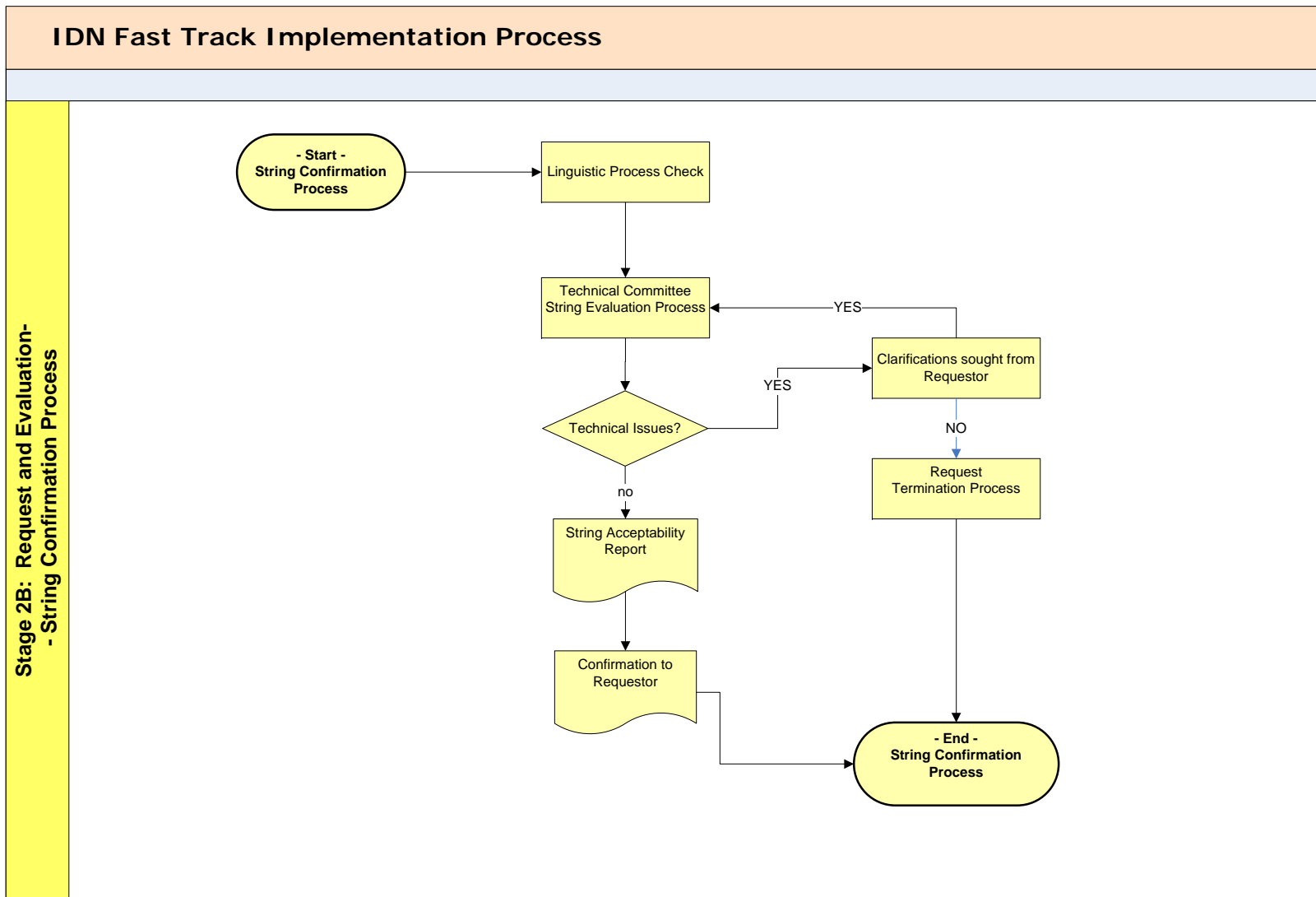


Figure 5.2: Stage 2B: String Confirmation Process –the technical criteria is verified and the linguistic process requirement is checked here.

Module 6

Delegation Process

ICANN ~~currently~~ maintains a process for delegating top-level domains ~~as part of~~ its ~~management execution~~ of the IANA functions ~~(IANA)~~. A guide to the delegation procedure for existing country-code top-level domains is described at ~~<http://www.iana.org/domains/root/delegation-guide/>~~~~http://www.iana.org/domains/root/delegation-guide/~~. This process remains largely applicable ~~for~~ IDN ccTLDs. ~~This~~~~The~~ online document will be updated to reflect updated operational practices for IDN ccTLDs.

6.1 IANA Function

ICANN manages the IANA functions under a contract with the United States Department of Commerce. The IANA ~~function~~ process ~~of review~~ for delegating an IDN ~~country code top level domain~~ccTLD will remain consistent with the process ~~applied~~ for existing ~~country code top level domains~~ccTLDs directly derived from the ISO 3166-1 standard. The process will ~~only~~ be augmented ~~only~~ to include the requirements in Module 5.

~~In this process,~~ ICANN staff will receive a request to delegate a ~~country code top level domain, comprised~~ccTLD that is ~~composed~~ of a formal template ~~that explains what~~explaining the delegation request ~~is, as well as a bundle of~~together with supporting documentation. This supporting documentation must describe how the principles in RFC1591, ICP-1, and the GAC principles are supported. Some of these ~~principals~~ are:

6.1.1 ~~Operational and~~ ~~technical skills~~Technical Skills

- 1.1 The prospective manager has the requisite skills to operate the TLD appropriately.
- 1.2 There must be reliable, full-time IP connectivity to the name servers and electronic mail connectivity to the ~~operator~~managers.
- 1.3 The manager must perform its duties in assigning domains and operating ~~nameservers~~name servers with technical competence.

6.1.2 ~~Operator~~Manager in ~~country~~Country

- 1.4 The prospective manager supervises and operates the domain name from within the country or territory represented by the TLD.
- 1.5 The prospective administrative contact must reside in the country represented by the TLD.

6.1.3 ~~Equitable~~ ~~treatment~~Treatment

- 1.6 ~~The prospective manager must be equitable and fair to all groups encompassed by the TLD that may request domain names. The Registry manager shall operate the IDN ccTLD in a manner that allows the TLD community to discuss and participate in the development and modification of policies and practices for the TLD.~~

6.1.4 ~~Community/Governmental~~ ~~support~~Support

- 1.7 The prospective manager has the requisite authority to operate the TLD appropriately, with the desire of the government taken very seriously.
- 1.8 Significantly interested parties in the domain should agree that the prospective manager is the appropriate party to receive the delegation.

In addition to material that ~~shows~~demonstrates the ~~requestor is suitable~~requester suitability under these RFC 1591 ~~defined~~ criteria, ~~requesters must provide~~ the additional specific material relating to the evaluation described in the Module 5 ~~must be provided~~. This ~~requirement~~ will be satisfied by the Delegation Readiness report that describes the IDN-specific factors.

ICANN ~~staff will~~ perform due diligence on the documentation provided in ~~accord~~accordance with the IANA review process defined in RFC 1591. If the request does not ~~appear to~~ adequately cover all ~~of the~~ areas, they will confer with the ~~requestor~~requester, who may provide further information. When ICANN ~~staff~~ deems the IANA due diligence evaluation ~~is~~ complete, it will package the request ~~along with and~~ its assessment for ICANN Board review.

6.2 ICANN Board Review Process

All delegations and re-delegations of ~~country code top-level domains~~ccTLDs require ICANN Board approval ~~in order~~ to proceed. This ~~role approval~~ is expected to remain constant with the introduction of IDN ccTLDs.

At the conclusion of the IANA function evaluation, ~~an assessment of the ICANN Board will assess~~ the delegation request ~~is made by ICANN.~~

The ICANN Board ~~evaluates~~ will evaluate whether requests are consistent with governing policies, and with ICANN's core values ~~as set out in the ICANN Bylaws—its bylaws~~ to "ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems".

6.3 US Government Authorization—DOC Review

After approval of a request, ICANN ~~executes~~ will execute its regular IANA function root zone change management process.

This change involves retesting the technical configuration of the data supplied ~~data from~~ by the ~~requestor~~ requester, and ensuring ~~the that~~ name servers ~~are~~ function correctly ~~functioning~~. Once satisfied, the request is will be transmitted to the US Department of Commerce for authorization. Following this authorization, it ~~is~~ will be implemented in the DNS root zone.

Module 7

Discussion of Additional Topics

This ~~Module 7~~ module contains a description of issues and topics that are relevant parts of the Draft Implementation Plan, but were not ~~(fully)~~ covered in the IDNC Final Report. It ~~also includes~~ initially included the list of outstanding issues ~~which~~ the ICANN Board directed staff to produce ~~in advance of~~ before the ICANN Cairo meeting in November 2008. This list has now been updated with proposed positions and proposed implementation details (based on public comments) and in some cases with references to external papers with proposed implementation details.

Most of the topics covered in this module ~~are~~ relate directly ~~related~~ to the overarching ~~requirement~~ requirements to:

- Preserve the security and stability of the DNS
- Ensure compliance ~~-with~~ the IDNA protocol and IDN Guidelines

~~In order to move forward with the planning process and to address the open issues and topics ICANN staff seeks input from the community, in particular at the Cairo meeting.~~

Topics included are:

1. Ensuring ongoing compliance with the IDN technical standards, including the IDNA protocol and the IDN Guidelines.
 - a. Updated with a proposed arrangement between ICANN and potential IDN ccTLD managers. This proposal is released in a separate paper: Documentation of Responsibility between ICANN and prospective IDN ccTLD Managers, see section 7.1.
2. Possible establishment of financial contributions.
 - a. Updated with preliminary principles suggesting that some contribution should be required from IDN ccTLD managers to offset program costs, see section 7.2.
3. IDN ccTLD ~~operator association to~~ participation in the ICANN community.
- ~~4. Compliance with consensus policies~~
 - a. Updated, proposing a mechanism for the short-term participation of IDN ccTLD managers in continued IDN policy activities, see section 7.3.

5.4. Prevention of contention issues with existing TLDs and those under application consideration in the gTLD process.

~~This Module proposes recommendations for the Fast Track process for community discussion to ensure that this is working in the best interest of the Internet Community.~~

~~ICANN Staff is expecting proactive conversations about the topics discussed in this module, during the ICANN meeting in Cairo, Egypt (November 2008).~~

- a. Updated with a proposed set of rules to be applied in rare cases where contention might exist, see section 7.4.

5. IDN Table Procedure

- a. Updated with a proposed process for how IDN Tables should be managed at both second and top level. See section 7.5.

ICANN is actively soliciting additional community collaboration on the updates made in this version of the Implementation Plan. The feedback will play a key role in shaping the Final Implementation Plan. It is intended to presentation the final Plan at the ICANN meeting in Sydney (June 2009). However, this date is at risk. The issues described here must be resolved in order to publish the Implementation Plan as 'final.'

7.1 Relationship between ICANN and IDN ccTLD ~~operator~~Manager

The IDNC WG Final Report ~~is silent on the topic of~~does not cover the relationship between ICANN and the IDN ccTLD ~~operator~~manager after delegation of the IDN ccTLD(s). However, the nature of such relationship ~~is a matter that~~ was considered extensively in the comments ~~received on~~ and concerns raised ~~with regard to~~ the IDNC Final Report.

Therefore the need, and possible mechanisms, to formalize the relationship between ICANN and the IDN ccTLD manager has been considered part of the Draft Implementation Plan.

Since ccTLDs were introduced the circumstances and environment has changed considerably. This includes an increasing demand for transparency and accountability, increased need to ensure the security and stability of the Internet for the benefit of the local and global community, and demand to delineate the roles and responsibilities of the entities involved in the function of the DNS.

The introduction of IDN ccTLDs will require that a number of additional technical aspects are taken into account to ensure the security, stability and resilience of the Domain Name System. In particular it will be necessary to ensure that the IDN ccTLD

manager adheres to the IDNA protocol and IDN guidelines on an ongoing basis and until a full PDP process can be completed for cc IDNs.

ICANN staff sought input and guidance from the community to develop a formal arrangement that included a general description of responsibilities for both ICANN and IDN ccTLD managers. This community input indicated that there should at least be a mechanism to ensure that all IDN managers adhere to the IDNA protocol over time, as well as compliance with associated standards, guidelines and other standards as they develop.

The Draft Fast Track Implementation Plan proposes a "Documentation of Responsibilities" (DoR) between the IDN ccTLD manager and ICANN. The DoR is intended to document the roles and responsibilities of both the IDN ccTLD manager and ICANN, particularly to ensure adherence with the relevant standards and guidelines during the phase of fast track deployment and pending the conclusion of the IDN ccPDP (Policy Development Process for the longer term introduction of IDN ccTLDs).

A separate paper entitled "*Documentation of Responsibilities between ICANN and prospective IDN ccTLD managers*" provides more detail on this issue and includes a draft DoR for consideration.

Comments are sought on the various elements in the proposed Documentation of Responsibilities.

As part of the implementation of the Fast Track process, ICANN staff has evaluated the current program with ccTLD operators to achieve stable relations with an IDN ccTLD operator after introduction of the IDN ccTLD. Currently, ICANN has an ongoing program of voluntary Accountability Frameworks (AF).

The introduction of IDN ccTLDs will require that a number of additional technical aspects are taken into account to ensure the security, stability and resilience of the Domain Name System. In particular it will be necessary to ensure that the IDN ccTLD operator adheres to the IDNA protocol and IDN Guidelines on an ongoing basis.

Structuring the relationships between ICANN and the IDN ccTLD operator is therefore considered part of the Draft Implementation Planning. At this stage of the planning process, ICANN staff seeks additional input and guidance from the community to shape a mechanism that includes a general description of responsibilities of both ICANN and the IDN ccTLD operator, ensures compliance with the IDNA protocol over time, as well as compliance with associated standards, guidelines and other standards as they develop.

7.2 Financial Contributions

The IDNC WG Final report ~~does not contain a~~contains no recommendation ~~concerning about~~ possible financial contributions ~~related to the implementation of or implementing~~ IDN ccTLDs. The community ~~has~~ discussed this topic and various viewpoints ~~have been were~~ put forward proposing establishment of financial contributions.

ICANN ~~staff~~ is looking forward to ~~continue~~continuing this dialogue with the community, and to ~~receive some~~receiving feedback so that ~~resolution can be~~ICANN can reached ~~a decision~~ on this topic in a timely manner. While working toward resolution, there are some preliminary statements that can be made regarding financial contributions in general, for the meeting in Mexico (March 2009).

As a not-for-profit organization, ICANN strives for fair and equitable cost recovery to fund its services, seeking appropriate frameworks to recover costs from the communities it serves. The principle of fair and equitable cost recovery is also applicable when ICANN develops new services. With new services come new costs; the only question is the manner in which those costs are funded. Should the costs of new services be absorbed by current ICANN contributions, or should beneficiaries of new services pay for them? In certain cases, it was decided that new programs must be fully self-funded, most notably, the New gTLD Program. In other cases, new services are funded through ICANN's regular budget process; for example, ICANN's DNSSEC work.

Formal and informal feedback on required contributions by IDN ccTLD managers is divided. Some point to ccTLDs predating ICANN, and that the existing model of voluntary contributions for ASCII ccTLDs should be extended to new IDN ccTLDs. Others note that IDN ccTLDs are new entities not covered by existing country code policy, and that their funding should come from the managers of these new TLD registries. This is a financial issue in that new costs will certainly be incurred from the IDN program that must be funded, and an issue that touches on the relationships between the new IDN ccTLD registries and ICANN.

While parallels can be drawn between current ccTLD managers and potential IDN ccTLD managers, it should be recognized that the circumstances and environment has changed since ccTLDs were first introduced into the DNS. There is an increasing demand for transparency and accountability, an increased need to ensure the security and stability of the Internet for the benefit of the local and global community, and demand to delineate the roles and responsibilities of the entities involved in the function of the DNS.

Given that the Fast Track program is a new program created specifically for new IDN ccTLD managers and their Internet users, some contribution should be required from IDN ccTLD managers to offset its program costs. Still, this remains a Module 7 discussion

issue in this Implementation Plan draft because more discussion is required before finalizing recommendations contributions, including feedback on required contributions, the cost components and levels that should be considered in a cost recovery mechanism, how contribution levels might be set, and possible exceptions to required contributions.

7.3 Association of IDN ccTLD ~~Operators~~ Manager with the ccNSO

Another topic not covered by the IDNC WG report relates to the association of IDN ccTLD operatormanagers to the ccNSO.

When the ccNSO was established in 2003, the introduction of IDN ccTLDs was yet not envisioned. This factor, amongst others, is reflected in-As such the membership definition of the ccNSO, ccNSO which is too restrictive to accommodate IDN ccTLD operatormanagers, and the current structure and voting mechanisms also do not accommodate IDN ccTLD managers.

Secondly, the structure of the ccNSO and its voting mechanisms, do not accommodate IDN ccTLDs. One of the issues-This issue: whether IDN ccTLD managers can become members of the ccNSO, will be addressed in the IDN ccNSO-PDP-is the need for adjustment of Article XI of the ICANN bylaws to include eligibility for IDN ccTLD operators as ccNSO members.

Although the ccNSO is open to members and non-membersnonmembers, the status of members in the ccNSO is different. For instance, ccNSO consensus policies, including the IDN ccNSO PDP outcome when implemented, are currently only applicable through the (voluntary) membership of the ccNSO.

Assuming that IDN ccTLDs will be operational before the conclusion of the IDN ccNSO PDP, an interim solution is desirable. ICANN Staff respectfully suggestssuggests that the ccNSO consider whether an interim solution might be feasible where theby which IDN ccTLD operatormanagers could, for example, be granted temporary advisory positions to the ccNSO.- In that way, support tofor the finalization of the IDN ccNSO PDP can be facilitated in an adequate mannera way that includes coveringcovers the development of consensus policies for IDN ccTLD operatormanager)s. Further mechanisms are also proposed to be in place to ensure and requirecompliance with ccNSO consensus policies-of the ccNSO, including the outcome of the IDN ccNSO PDP.

From the comments received on this topic, it is anticipated that the ccNSO will provide an interim solution to ensure that adequate experience and expertise in IDN implementation is included in the ongoing work on the ccNSO PDP on IDNs. This is a reasonable short-term solution and therefore this topic no longer needs to be a subject of discussion.

7.4 Discussion of Contention Issues with Existing TLDs and new gTLD Applications

~~Through the~~During implementation ~~efforts~~ of the Fast Track process and the process for introducing ~~new~~ gTLDs, a potential ~~for~~ contention has been identified between Fast Track requested IDN ccTLD strings and:

- Existing gTLD strings
- Existing ccTLD strings
- Proposed strings in new gTLD applications

These contention issues can ~~be either that involve~~ two or more strings ~~that~~ are identical or are so confusingly similar that they cannot coexist in the DNS.

Some cases will be covered as the process for ~~introduction~~ ~~of~~introducing new gTLDs requires government support if the proposed string represents a country or a territory name. However, ~~there could be in~~ rare cases ~~where~~, an applied ~~for~~ generic string ~~is could be~~ identical or confusingly similar to a requested IDN ccTLD string, without the gTLD string being submitted for the same purpose as the IDN ccTLD string.

This issue is made more complex by ~~the fact that~~ Fast Track requests ~~are being considered~~ confidential until the end of the request and evaluation stage (see Module 5) while all applications in the New gTLD ~~Process~~Program are public as soon as the application period closes.

~~Efforts should be invested in both the Fast Track and the New gTLD Process to ensure ongoing and efficient communications between the participants in these processes at all stages to identify potential issues as early as possible in order to achieve a timely prevention or resolution of any issue.~~

~~At this stage of the planning process ICANN staff seeks further input and guidance from the community to shape mechanisms that will help minimize the possible occurrence of such contentions and effectively deal with any that could occur.~~

~~While contention situations between Fast Track requests and new gTLD applications are unlikely to occur, ICANN received several comments on this topic revealing that it is necessary to:~~

- ~~Have adequate coordination in place between the two processes to identify any strings that are in conflict (i.e., identified as very similar) as early as possible.~~
- ~~Have an adequate procedure in place to determine, in the case of contention, which application prevails over the other(s).~~

In response to these comments, ICANN proposes the following rules and thresholds to benefit the Fast Track applicant as much as possible because the Fast Track applicant is requesting a country or territory name.

Assessments of whether strings are considered in conflict with existing or applied-for new gTLD strings are made in the technical validation step for Fast Track requests and in the initial evaluation step for new gTLD applications. The following supplemental rules are proposed to adequately address contention cases between the processes.

A. A gTLD application that is approved by the ICANN Board will be considered an existing TLD in inter-process contention unless it is withdrawn. Therefore, any other later application for the same string will be denied.

B. A validated request for an IDN ccTLD will be considered an existing TLD in inter-process contention unless it is withdrawn. Therefore, any other later application for the same string will be denied.

- For the purpose of contention, an IDN ccTLD string is validated once it is confirmed that the string is a meaningful representation of the country or territory and that the string has passed the Technical Committee evaluation.

C. Upon receipt of an IDN ccTLD request, if contention is identified with a new gTLD application not yet approved by the ICANN Board, the new gTLD application will be placed on hold and the IDN ccTLD request will prevail, provided it passes validation. However, if both parties have the requisite government assent, both applications will be placed on hold until the contention is resolved through agreement between the parties.

7.5 IDN Table Procedure

An IDN Table is a list of all those characters that a particular TLD registry supports beyond the twenty-six letters of the basic Latin alphabet (a-z), ten digits (0-9), and the hyphen (-). If any characters in a table are considered to be variants of each other (essentially meaning "the same as"), this is indicated next to each character in a variant group. The term "variant" designates orthographic equivalence on the character level, such as that between "æ" and "ae" in "encyclopædia" and "encyclopaedia", but not in the broader sense that pertains to the variant spelling of words, as "encyclopaedia" vs. "encyclopedia" or "color" vs. "colour".

An IDN Table will typically contain characters that either represent a specific language, or are taken from a specific script without particular reference to any of the languages that are written with it. The term "IDN Table" as it is used here, corresponds to what in

~~previous contexts was referred to as a “variant table”, a “language variant table”, a “language table”, or a “script table”. An IDN Table is a table listing all those characters that a particular TLD registry supports. If one or more of these characters are considered a variant this is indicated next to that/those characters. It is also indicated which character a particular character is a variant to. The IDN table usually holds characters representing a specific language but can also be characters from a specific script.~~

~~Per the IDNC WG Final Report, and consistent with the IDN Guidelines, an IDN table with associated variants identified is a requirement for IDN registries, and the table must be designated in a manner that indicates the script(s) or language(s) it is intended to support.~~

~~In accordance with the IDNC WG Final Report and consistent with the IDN Guidelines, an IDN Table identified is required for IDN registries. The table must indicate the script(s) or language(s) it is intended to support and any variant characters as defined above must be identified in the table.~~

The IDNC WG Final Report ~~said~~says that countries and territories using the same script are encouraged to cooperate in developing a language/script table, in accordance with the IDN guidelines.

~~It is possible that a situation may arise where separately compiled IDN tables based on the same script or language treat some elements of that script or language differently (for example, by differing assessments of character equivalence), in a manner that may cause user confusion.~~

~~ICANN staff seeks additional input from the community about the issue of the development of shared IDN tables among ccTLDs.~~

~~Based on the IDNC recommendation and on the input and comments received on this topic, ICANN prepared a paper (Development and use of IDN tables and character variants for second and top level strings) providing proposed implementation details on this subject. The paper provides definitions of IDN Tables and character variants. The benefits to TLD registries that plan to introduce IDNs (either at the second or top level) are described. The paper also proposes an outline for developing an IDN Table and a methodology for how ICANN should use the IDN Tables provided in the criteria for the TLD allocations and management.~~

~~The paper is posted in conjunction with this revised Draft Implementation Plan, and comments are sought in preparation for a finalized Implementation Plan.~~

7.6 Proposed Evaluation of Fast Track the Process

~~In order to~~To ensure that the ~~fast~~Fast Track process ~~is functioning~~ functions in the best ~~interest~~interests of the ~~entire~~Internet

~~Community as a whole a community and for the benefit of registrants, the following~~ review ~~of the~~ process is proposed ~~as follows~~.

Every 12 months following the opening of the Fast Track ~~Process~~process, ICANN ~~staff~~ should open a period for public ~~comments~~comment on the functionality of the process. The public comment period should last ~~a minimum of at least~~ 45 days. ~~Following~~At the conclusion of the comment period, ~~staff~~ICANN should analyze the comments received ~~comments~~ and seek community guidance and feedback on such comments, in particular from the ccNSO, GAC, GNSO, ALAC and the SSAC.

If necessary, based on these consultations, the Fast Track process can be modified to better suit the needs of the community. If such changes are implemented, a ~~1-one~~ month notice must be provided publicly ~~with, containing~~ clear descriptions of ~~what the~~ changes that are introduced and ~~what the their~~ impact ~~will be~~ for prospective IDN ccTLD ~~operators~~managers.

Based on the comments received on this topic ICANN will schedule a review of the Fast Track process as proposed. Depending on the time required to complete the ccNSO PDP on IDNs, one or more such reviews may take place.